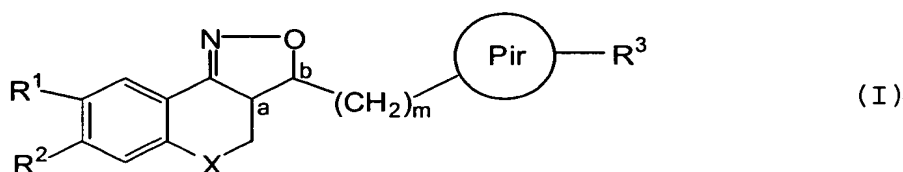


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound according to the general Formula (I)



the pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salts thereof, the stereochemically isomeric forms thereof and the *N*-oxide form thereof, wherein :

X is CH₂, N-R⁷, S or O ;

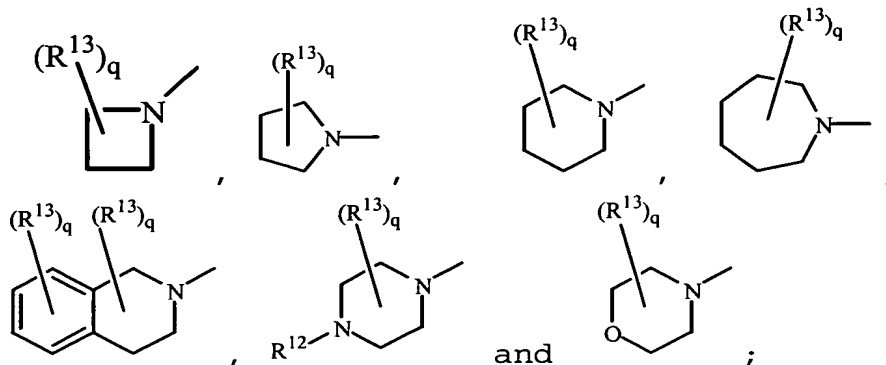
R⁷ is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkyloxy carbonyl and mono- and di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl ;

R¹ and R² are each selected from the group of hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, halo, OSO₂H, OSO₂CH₃, N-R¹⁰R¹¹, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxyalkyloxy, tetrahydrofuranyloxy, alkylthio, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyloxy, pyridinylcarbonyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyloxy, alkyloxy carbonyloxy, alkenyloxy, alkenylcarbonyloxy and mono- or di(alkyl)aminoalkyloxy ;

~~with the proviso~~ with the proviso that at least one of R¹ and R² is N-R¹⁰R¹¹ wherein :

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are each, independently from each other, selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Het, Ar, Ar-alkyl, Het-alkyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminoalkyl, mono- or di(alkenyl)aminoalkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkenylcarbonyl, Ar-carbonyl, Het-carbonyl, alkyloxy carbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(Ar)aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyloxy carbonylalkyl)aminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, alkenylcarbonyloxyalkyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyloxyalkyl, aminoiminomethyl, alkylaminoiminomethyl, N-benzylpiperazinyloiminomethyl, alkylsulphonyl and Ar-sulphonyl ; or

R^{10} and R^{11} may be taken together and with the N may form a monovalent radical selected from the group of



wherein :

R^{12} is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, Ar-alkenyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl and mono- or di(alkyl)-aminocarbonyl ;

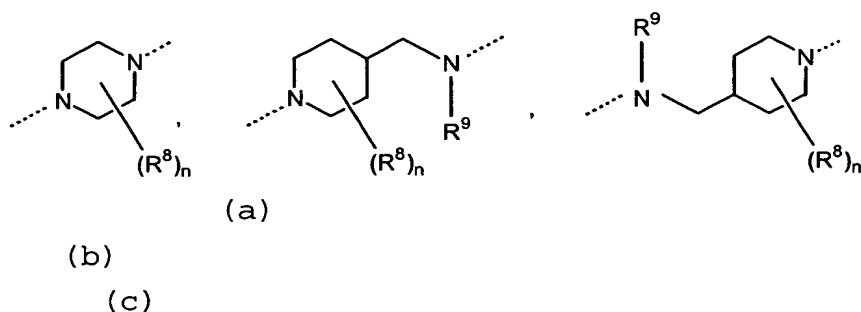
each ring having optionally 1, 2 or 3 double bonds and each ring being optionally substituted with q radicals R^{13} , each radical R^{13} independently from each other selected from the group of alkyl, oxo, Ar, Ar-alkyl, Ar-alkenyl and alkyloxycarbonyl and q being an integer ranging from 0 to 6 ; or

R^1 and R^2 may be taken together to form a bivalent radical $-R^1-R^2-$ selected from the group of $-O-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, $-NR^{14}-CH_2-O-$, $-NR^{15}-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, $-NR^{14}-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, $-O-CH_2-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, $-NR^{15}-CH_2-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, - wherein R^{14} and R^{15} each, independently from each other, are selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl and mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl ;

a and b are asymmetric centres ;

$(CH_2)_m$ is a straight hydrocarbon chain of m carbon atoms, m being an integer ranging from 1 to 4 ;

Pir is a radical according to any one of Formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc)



optionally substituted with n radicals R^8 , wherein :

each R^8 is independently from each other, selected from the group of hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, halo and alkyl ;

n is an integer ranging from 0 to 5 ;

R^9 is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl and formyl ;

R^3 represents an optionally substituted aromatic homocyclic or heterocyclic ring system together with an optionally substituted and partially or completely hydrogenated hydrocarbon chain of 1 to 6 atoms long with which said ring system is attached to the Pir radical and of which may contain one or more heteroatoms selected from the group of O, N and S ;

alkyl represents a straight or branched saturated hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a cyclic saturated hydrocarbon radical having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with one or more methyl, halo, cyano, oxo, hydroxy, alkyloxy or amino radicals ;

alkenyl represents a straight or branched unsaturated hydrocarbon radical having one or more double bonds, optionally substituted with one or more methyl, halo, cyano, oxo, hydroxy, alkyloxy or amino radicals ;

Ar represents phenyl or naphthyl, optionally substituted with one or more radicals selected from the group of alkyl, halo, cyano, oxo, hydroxy, alkyloxy and amino ; and

Het is a monocyclic heterocyclic radical selected from the group of azetidiny, pyrrolidiny, dioxoly, imidazolidiny, pyrrazolidiny, piperidiny, homopiperidiny, dioxyl, morpholiny, dithianyl, thiomorpholiny, piperaziny,

imidazolidinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, 2H-pyrrolyl, pyrrolinyl, imidazolynyl, pyrazolinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, furanyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl and triazinyl ; each radical optionally substituted with one or more radicals selected from the group of alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, halo, cyano, oxo, hydroxy, alkyloxy and amino.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that

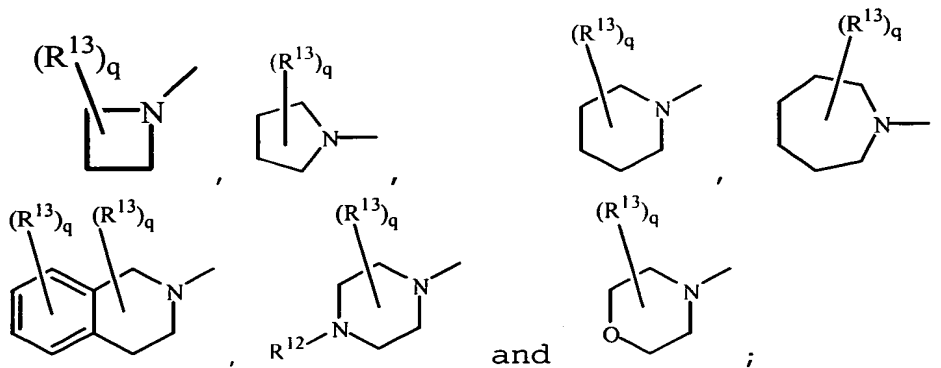
X is O ;

R^1 and R^2 are each selected from the group of hydrogen, $N-R^{10}R^{11}$ and alkyloxy ;

with the proviso with the proviso that at least one of R^1 and R^2 is $N-R^{10}R^{11}$ wherein :

R^{10} and R^{11} are each, independently from each other, selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Het, Ar, Ar-alkyl, Het-alkyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminoalkyl, mono- or di(alkenyl)aminoalkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkenylcarbonyl, Ar-carbonyl, Het-carbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(Ar)aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyloxycarbonylalkyl)aminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, alkenylcarbonyloxyalkyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyloxyalkyl, N-benzylpiperazinylinomethyl, alkylsulphonyl and Ar-sulphonyl ; or

R^{10} and R^{11} may be taken together and with the N may form a monovalent radical selected from the group of



wherein :

R^{12} is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl and Ar-alkenyl; each ring having optionally a double bond and each ring being optionally substituted with q radicals R^{13} , each radical R^{13} independently from each other selected from the group of alkyl, oxo and alkyloxycarbonyl and q being an integer ranging from 0 to 2 ; or

R^1 and R^2 may be taken together to form a bivalent radical $-O-CH_2-CH_2-NR^{14}-$ wherein R^{14} is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl and mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl ;

a and b are asymmetric centres ;

$(CH_2)_m$ is a straight hydrocarbon chain of m carbon atoms, m being an integer equal to 1 ;

Pir is a radical according to Formula (IIa)

R^3 represents an optionally substituted aromatic homocyclic or heterocyclic ring system together with an optionally substituted and partially or completely hydrogenated hydrocarbon chain of 1 to 6 atoms long with which said ring system is attached to the Pir radical and of which may contain one or more heteroatoms selected from the group of O, N and S ;

alkyl represents a straight or branched saturated hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a cyclic saturated hydrocarbon radical having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with one or more methyl or amino radicals;

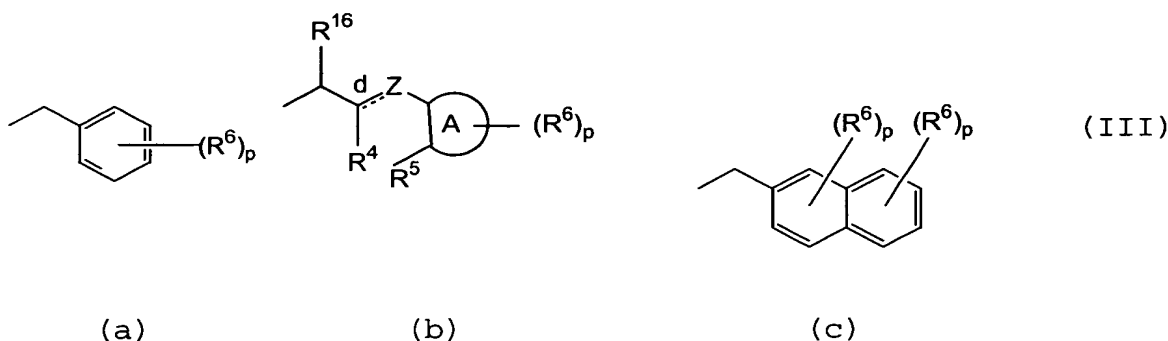
alkenyl represents a straight or branched unsaturated hydrocarbon radical having one or more double bonds, optionally substituted with one or more methyl radicals ;

Ar represents phenyl, optionally substituted with one or more radicals selected from the group of alkyl, halo, cyano, hydroxy and alkyloxy ; and

Het is a monocyclic heterocyclic radical selected from the group of azetidiny, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, N-benzylpiperazinyl, tetrahydrofuranly and pyridinyl.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein any of claims 1 and

2, characterized in that R^3 is a radical according to any one of Formula (IIIa), (IIIb) or (IIIc)



wherein :

d is a single bond while Z is either a bivalent radical selected from the group of $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{OH})-$, $-\text{C}(=\text{N}-\text{OH})-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{alkyl})-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})-$, $-\text{NH}-$ and $-\text{SH}-$; or Z is a trivalent CH -moiety that forms a covalent bond with R^4 equal to alkyl, such that a cycloalkyl moiety is formed; or d is a double bond while Z is either a trivalent radical of formula $=\text{CH}-$ or $=\text{C}(\text{alkyl})-$; or Z is a trivalent CH -moiety that forms a covalent bond with R^4 equal to alkyl, such that a cycloalkenyl moiety is formed;

A is a 5- or 6-membered aromatic homocyclic or heterocyclic ring, selected from the group of phenyl, pyranyl, pyridinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, thienyl, isothiazolyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, furanyl, oxadiazolyl and isoxazolyl;

p is an integer ranging from 0 to 6;

R^4 and R^5 are each, independently from each other, selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, biphenyl, halo and cyano; or

R^4 and R^5 may be taken together to form a bivalent radical $-\text{R}^4-\text{R}^5-$ selected from the group of $-\text{CH}_2-$, $=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{NH}-$, $=\text{N}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{alkyl})-$, $-\text{N}(\text{alkyl})\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{NH}-$, $-\text{NHCH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$, $-\text{N}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ and $-\text{OCH}_2-$;

each R^6 is independently from each other, selected from the group of hydroxy, amino,

nitro, cyano, halo, carboxyl, alkyl, Ar, alkyloxy, Ar-oxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylthio, mono- and di(alkyl)amino, alkylcarbonylamino, mono- and di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(alkyl)aminocarbonyloxy, mono- and di(alkyl)aminoalkyloxy ; or

two vicinal radicals R^6 may be taken together to form a bivalent radical $-R^6-R^6-$ selected from the group of $-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, $-O-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-O-CH_2-C(=O)-$, $-C(=O)-CH_2-O-$, $-O-CH_2-O-$, $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$, $-O-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, $-CH=CH-CH=CH-$, $-CH=CH-CH=N-$, $-CH=CH-N=CH-$, $-CH=N-CH=CH-$, $-N=CH-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-C(=O)-$, $-C(=O)-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-C(=O)-CH_2-$ and $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$; and

R^{16} is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar and Ar-alkyl.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein ~~to any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ R^3 is a radical according to any one of Formula (IIIa), (IIIb) or (IIIc) wherein :

d is a double bond while Z is a trivalent radical of formula $=CH-$ or $=C(alkyl)-$;

A is phenyl,

p is an integer equal to 0 or 1 ;

R^4 and R^5 are each, independently from each other, selected from the group of hydrogen and alkyl ;

each R^6 is halo ; and

R^{16} is hydrogen.

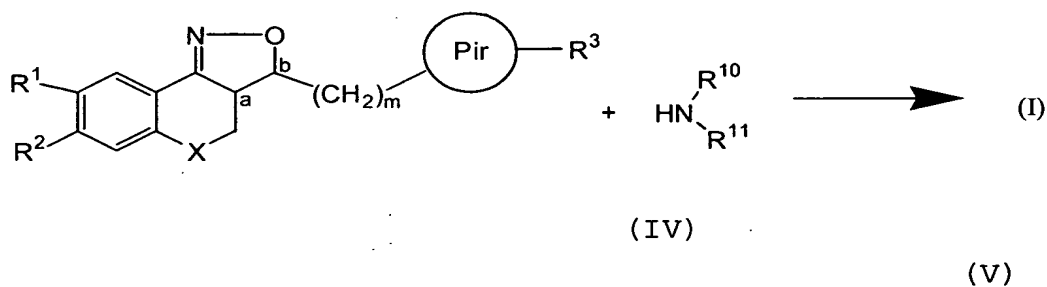
5. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ $X=O$, one of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen, methoxy or ethoxy ; $m = 1$; Pir is a radical according to Formula (IIa) wherein $n = 0$; R^3 is a radical according to Formula (IIIb) wherein Z is $=CH-$, d is a double bond, A is a phenyl ring, R^4 is methyl and R^5 and R^{16} are each hydrogen.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of claims 1 to~~

~~5, characterized in that~~ R^1 is hydrogen or methoxy and R^2 is an amine radical $NR^{10}R^{11}$; $X=O$; $m=1$; Pir is a radical according to Formula (IIa) wherein $n=0$; R^3 is a radical according to Formula (IIIb) wherein Z is $=CH-$, d is a double bond, A is a phenyl ring, R^4 is methyl and R^5 and R^{16} are each hydrogen.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ for use as a medicine.
8. (Currently Amended) A compound which is degraded *in vivo* to yield a compound according to claim 1. ~~any one of claims 1-6.~~
9. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and, as active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1. ~~any one of claims 1-6 or a compound according to claim 7.~~
10. (Currently Amended) A process for making a pharmaceutical composition ~~according to claim 9~~, comprising mixing a compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-6 or a compound according to claim 8~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and, as active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1-6 or a compound according to claim 7~~ and one or more other compounds selected from the group of antidepressants, anxiolytics and antipsychotics.
13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method ~~The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-6 or a compound according to claim 8 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of depression, anxiety and body weight disorders, said treatment comprising the simultaneous or sequential administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, any one of claims 1-6 or a compound according to claim 8 and one or more other compounds selected from the group of antidepressants, anxiolytics and antipsychotics, to a patient in need of treatment.~~
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Currently Amended) A process for making a pharmaceutical composition ~~according to claim 12~~, comprising mixing a compound according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1-6 or a compound according to claim 8~~ and a compound selected from the group of antidepressants, anxiolytics and antipsychotics and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
18. (Original) A process for preparing a compound according to Formula (I), characterized in that a compound according to Formula (IV) is reacted with an amine of Formula (V) according to the following reaction



wherein all variables, except for R^1 and R^2 , have the same meaning as in Formula (I), at least one of R^1 and R^2 is an halogen and at most one of R^1 and R^2 is selected from the group of hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, halo, OSO_2H , OSO_2CH_3 , $N-R^{10}R^{11}$, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxyalkyloxy, tetrahydrofuranyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkylthio, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyloxy, pyridinylcarbonyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyloxy, alkyloxycarbonyloxy, alkenyloxy, alkenylcarbonyloxy and mono-or di(alkyl)amino-alkyloxy.